

F-2-61

G. C. Huffer Farmstead
Burkittsville vicinity
Private

1884

The G. C. Huffer Farmstead is an agricultural group consisting of an 1884 brick dwelling house with a datestone in the cross gable of the facade and a frame bank barn dated 1922 built by a subsequent owner. The farm originally had several outbuildings which have been demolished or replaced by concrete block sheds and pump houses. The two main buildings contrast the ethnic architectural heritage of Frederick County in the English side-wing plan of the dwelling house, built by George C. Huffer, a descendant of German settlers, and the German bank barn, built in the early 20th century, which would soon be replaced as a type in Frederick County due to regulation of the dairy industry.

F-2-61

G.C. Huffer Farmstead
Burkittsville
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/ residence
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic G. C. Huffer Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6642 Burkittsville Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Burkittsville ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Larry Isaacson

street & number 6642 Burkittsville Rd. telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 990

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 916

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-2-61

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 4

The G. C. Huffer Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on an 1884 brick dwelling house of two stories and a 1922 frame bank barn with two concrete silos. The farmstead also includes non-contributing concrete block equipment sheds and pump houses, and a horse barn. The grouping is located on the west side of Burkittsville Road (Maryland Route 17) about one mile southeast of Middle Creek, a tributary of Catoctin Creek, near Burkittsville, Frederick County, Maryland. The dwelling house is located about 100 yards west of the road on a gently sloping site containing 12 acres surrounded by recently built residential developments.

The house has a five-bay east elevation with a cross gable and a one-story porch, flanked on the south by a kitchen wing of two stories with an integral two-story porch. The walls are 7:1 American bond and the window and door openings have segmental arches. The cross gable has a pair of centered 1/1 windows, below which is a stone panel inscribed "Built by G.C. and M.M. Huffer 1884". George C. and Mary M. Huffer were the builders of the house. The rest of the windows are 2/2 with louvred shutters and the doorway has a segmental arched transom and sidelights. The sidelights are beveled glass which replaced in about 1920 the original sidelight panels. The originals have been stored by the current owners. The house has paneled bases with three-light upper sections which had been covered by colored transparent paper in the early 20th century. The extended one-story porch replaced the original entry porch, which can be seen in a copy of a circa 1915 photograph in the owners' possession. The roof is pressed metal laid directly over the rafters and the chimneys are located near the center, at the north gable end, and at the south end of the kitchen wing.

The kitchen wing has a single dormer in the east roof slope. The upper level of the integral porch was enclosed in the 1920's with a continuous band of 3/1 windows. In the 1950's, a two-story brick addition was appended to the south gable end of the wing. It has a rusticated concrete block foundation, while the rest of the house has a rubble stone foundation. The west elevation of the house has two entry porches, one each in the main section and off the kitchen wing. The main section porch is more elaborate, with scroll brackets at the corner posts. The kitchen porch has plain posts.

The interior plan consists of a central hall with double parlors in the original arrangement. Pocket doors and the partition wall in the north parlor were removed during the mid 20th century and the pocket doors have been stored in the house. The fireplace in the northeast parlor has been removed. The interior doorways have pivoting transoms above the openings. In the south parlor, the interior fireplace has a built-in cupboard on the left side, and a door with glazed upper panels leads onto the first story porch of the kitchen wing. The wall surfaces have been replaced in almost every room during the mid-20th century when the house was divided into apartments.

(Continued on page 7.1)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-2-61

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1884	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The G. C. Huffer Farmstead is a good example of the contrasts of architectural traditions in Frederick County: The 1884 house exemplifies the assimilation of the English side-wing building plan by descendants of the early German settlers. The Germans most often placed the kitchen wing in a perpendicular ell at the rear of the house. Both types are found throughout Frederick County, but the side-wing plan is more common in the southern part of the county where English settlers predominated from the mid-1700's to the mid-1800's. By the 1880's, the Huffer house shows that the choice of plan by German heritage builders was less predictably the German traditional plan. The plan of the 1922 barn is the German bank type, showing the persistence of this building method well into the 20th century. In the 1930's, regulation of the dairy industry would cause the alteration or replacement of the bank barn by the specialized dairy barn.

The Huffer dwelling house plan is common in southern Frederick County, as is the use of brick by the last quarter of the 19th century. The cross gable facade is more frequently found in the southern part of the county, perhaps because the English five-bay plan lent itself easily to the center-dominant bay and suggested the pediment often found in 18th century Georgian and early Federal designs. It also provided more light to the attic.

George C. Huffer (born 1848) was a carpenter by training and it can be assumed that he was the principal builder of the house as well as its owner. The farm had been owned by Joseph L. Huffer (1800-1882), George's father, since at least the 1850's, as shown on the Bond 1858 and the Titus 1873 maps. An earlier house undoubtedly stood on the property, although its original location is not known. George married Mary M. DeLauder in about 1880 and purchased the originally 167-acre farm from his father in September 1880. The couple had no children, but occupied the farm until 1903, when they sold the property to Hiram E. Remsburg and moved to Middletown (Williams and McKinsey, *History of Frederick County*, pp. 1030-1031). The Remsburgs replaced the front porch, enclosed the upper level of the porch on the kitchen wing, and erected the addition on the south end of the kitchen wing. They also built the bank barn, probably on the foundations of an earlier structure.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-2-61

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910; reprinted 1979 by Baltimore Regional Publishing Co., pp. 1030-1031.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Five acres centered on dwelling house in Tax Map 74, Parcel 225,
which has a total of 12 acres.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Brace, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date September 1991street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of
individual property rights.

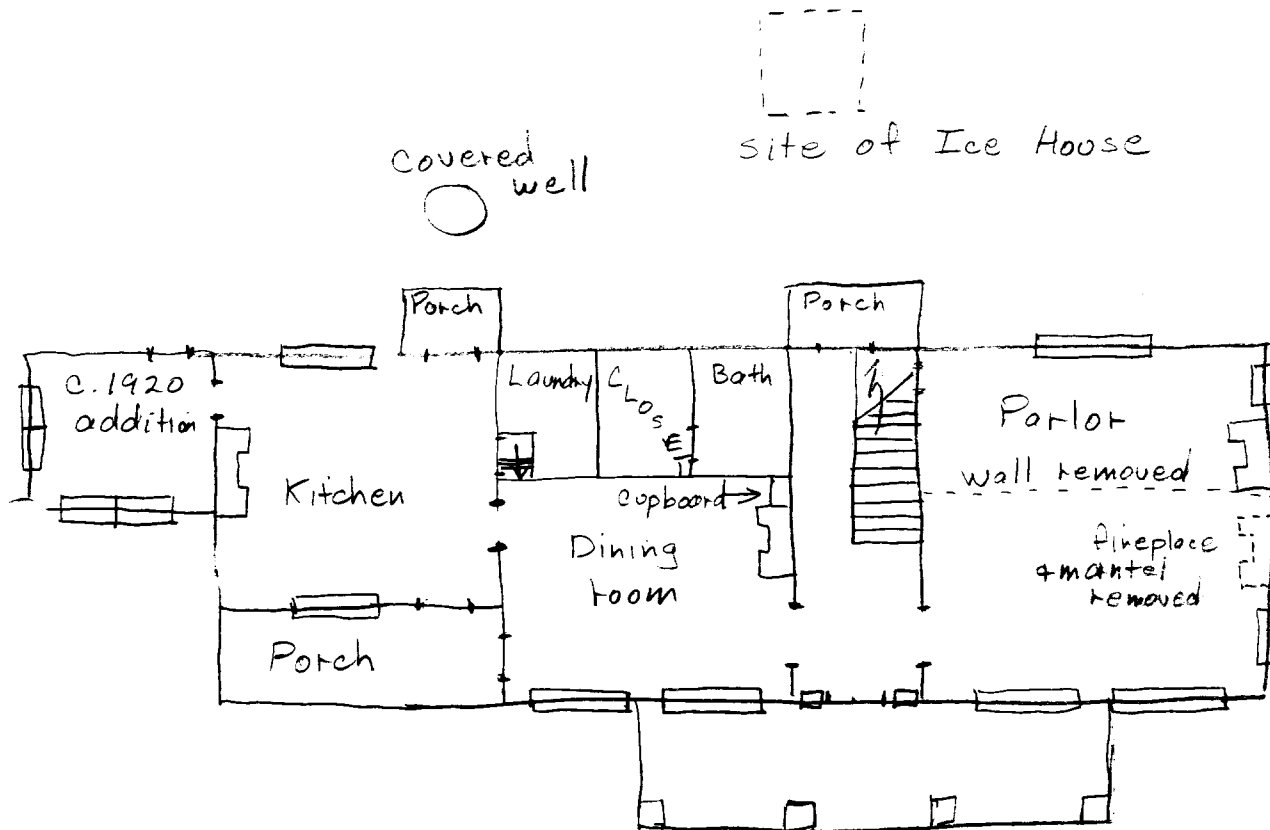
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

7.1 Description (Continued)

None of the domestic outbuildings survive, although the foundations of a smokehouse and an icehouse, and a covered well are located near the south wing of the house. A tenant house formerly stood southeast of the main dwelling house, as shown in an aerial photo of the 1950's in the owners' possession.

The frame bank barn has a stone foundation and vertical siding with painted "windows". The standing seam and corrugated metal roof has three large ventilators along the ridge. Inside the barn in the stone foundation at the north end is a stone panel inscribed "Built by H. E. Remsburg 1922". Hiram E. Remsburg was the owner of the farmstead beginning in 1903 and the Remsburg family retained ownership until the late 1960's. The forebay is partially enclosed at the south end to form a milking parlor. A loafing shed extended eastward from the south end until the 1960's, but has been demolished. A non-contributing horse barn, an equipment shed, concrete block pump houses near the barn and the house, and a concrete block garage are also on the property.



N →

F-2-61

G.C. Huffer Farmstead
Frederick County

Janet Davis
September 24, 1991

Not to Scale

LIBER/FOL.	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
990/916 23 Jun 16 <i>check date over says 1976</i>	Larry & Nancy Isaacson	Elizabeth L. Schneider	Lot 1, Block 1 of Morningside Berkeley, Cal. 12 A.		
791/368 26 Sept 68	Elizabeth L. Schneider	Helen Stewart			
<i>(other refs. . . , reconveyances, etc)</i>					
790/110 4 Sept 68	E. Newton Stealy Jr. & M. Jerome Offutt	John & Elizabeth mentions indebtedness to Samuel L. & Bruce W. Remsburg			
407/162 30 Apr 37	Hiram C. & Emma E. Remsburg	H. Kieffer DeLanter	167A.		
407/162 30 Apr 37	H. Kieffer DeLanter	Hiram & Emma Remsburg	167A.		
DHH 17/71 1 Apr 03	Hiram & Emma Remsburg	Mary M. & George C. Huffer	Adjoining the Lucas Schoolhouse grounds	#14,266.21	
A F 2/535 27 Sept 1880	Mary M. & George C. Huffer	Joseph L. Huffer & Catherine Huffer	"Masons Folly" "Well Intended" "Ascension Day" 167A.		F-2-61



CE, SOIL, &c.

and the northwest parts of 2, 4, 5 and 15. are
but timber, except in the rich and beau-
tiful valleys, about Wolfsville and Wolf's-tavern.

the hilly but productive and picturesque
foregoing predominate in Epidote, Mica
and with Iron, Copper, &c.

FOR CHILDREN'S FIRST LESSONS ABOUT

